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TO : Chairman, Equipment Board, OC 08 February 1974
THROUGH: Chief, Communications Engineering
FROM : Chairman, Test Equipment Working Group
SUBJECT: Office of Communications, Action Plan,
Objective #11, Milestone 4.

1. After a comprehensive review of the replies to the questionnaires which were sent to the OC areas regarding their present test equipment calibration program, it was apparent to the committee that the existing program could be improved with additional calibration capabilities.

2. The technical considerations of the following alternatives regarding the establishment of an OC calibration program that has been discussed in detail at the three previous meetings of this committee were: (a) Establish a calibration program through existing military channels, (b) Establish a calibration program through existing commercial facilities, (c) Return the test equipment to headquarters for calibration, (d) Establish a fly-away calibration equipment package and team(s) to accompany it and service the OC areas, (e) Establish a secondary calibration standard at each major base station and calibrate the test equipment that does not require extreme accuracies. To enhance an adopted OC calibration program, the committee agreed that certain minimum secondary standards (voltage and frequency) should be established at each OC base station to supplement any of the above recommended programs.

? 3. Considering the previously listed alternatives of establishing a calibration program, the committee recommends that wherever possible the OC areas should utilize established and reliable military facilities. We have been informed by both agency and commercial personnel that the Department of the Air Force Precision Measurements Electronic Laboratory (PMEL) provides the most reliable and efficient calibration and repair service.

4. We are presently in the process of establishing contact with the Department of the Air Force to determine all the facets associated with PMEL and how we can officially be included as part of their program.



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5. If PMEL is not available in a particular OC area, then a commercial repair facility representing such firms as [redacted] should be used. The international services and sales locations of these companies are listed in attachment 1. If a commercial company can not be used, and there is no PMEL within the area, it is recommended that this particular area ship their test equipment to the nearest OC facility where a PMEL is located.

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6. The concept of a traveling TDY calibration team, or the returning of the equipment to headquarters for calibration was considered totally ineffective for the following reasons: (a) the calibration standards required, the training of personnel to perform calibration and the movement of equipment and personnel to different areas would not be cost effective, (b) the time required for the areas to send their test equipment to headquarters for calibration and return would be unacceptable. This period of time, due to normal processing procedures, could extend over a period of three to four months, (c) the committee agreed, along with leading test equipment manufacturers, that the shortest distance the test equipment has to travel for calibration, the better the chances are that the equipment will retain calibration upon its return.

7. It is the recommendation of the committee that Messrs. [redacted] during their world-wide visit to the OC areas, enlist the views of the areas on the proposed test equipment calibration/repair program. The committee feels that the individual contact will prove beneficial in gaining the pros-and-cons from the specific areas.

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8. The committee would like to conclude its recommendations with a statement that although we did not neglect the importance of security, logistical and financial support, and manpower as part of the overall program, it is believed at this time that we should concentrate our efforts on the technical aspects of the D/CO Objective #11, Milestone 4. Additional details regarding the recommendations will be forthcoming as they become available.

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[redacted]
Chairman, Test Equipment Working Group

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Chairman, Test Equipment Working
Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

8 February 1974

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and
building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALSCOMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. C/OC-E
806 Ames

21 MAR 1974

22 MAR 1974

[initials]

3-5 Would you please
provide copies of this and
previous reports on this subject
to the members of the Equip Board.
I think the Working Group needs
to do more work to flesh out
this recommendation. We need
to know more precisely where
PMEL could be made available
and where we would rely on
other arrangements, when do
you think we could see a
recommended program with a
plan of action?

2.

3. Chairman, Equipment Board
2D-00, Hqs. Bldg.

[initials]

4.

5.

OC-E - [redacted] TEWG

27 MAR 1974

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